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amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 441/93 **Arrest of prisoners of conscience / legal concern / fear of ill-treatment**

23 December 1993

INDONESIA **Nuku Sulaiman, student at the National University**
21 student activists

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Nuku Sulaiman and 21 other student activists currently detained in Jakarta. They were arrested on 25 November and 14 December after taking part in peaceful demonstrations. Amnesty International fears that the 22 may be at risk of ill-treatment by military or police officials while in custody. It considers them to be prisoners of conscience and is concerned that they may face an unfair trial if brought before the courts.

Nuku Sulaiman was arrested along with four others on 25 November. He had participated in a demonstration outside Indonesia's parliament (DPR) building during a hearing about the national lottery. Nuku Sulaiman was reportedly arrested after distributing pamphlets which accused President Suharto of being the "mastermind" of a number of "disasters" including the killing of dozens of Muslim activists in Tanjung Priok, North Jakarta in 1984; the November 1991 Santa Cruz massacre in East Timor, during which an estimated 200 unarmed civilians were killed by Indonesian troops; and the killing of four villagers during an October 1993 protest against the Nipah Dam project in Madura, Java (all these human rights violations have been independently documented by Amnesty International). Nuku Sulaiman was subsequently reported to have been taken to the Central Jakarta Police Station where he is now being held. His four companions were released.

On 14 December there was a further demonstration outside the parliament building, during which riot police and soldiers reportedly clashed with about 200 students who were protesting against the suppression of human rights in Indonesia. The demonstrators read statements which again cited cases of human rights violations, including the killings at Tanjung Priok, Santa Cruz in East Timor and at the Nipah Dam protest. The statements were directly critical of President Suharto, with one banner reportedly saying: "*Drag Suharto before a Special Meeting of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR)*". During the demonstration, four students were reportedly beaten and trampled on by soldiers using rubber clubs and tear gas to force the protesters out of the main lobby of the parliament building. The four were among 21 people who were subsequently arrested.

Since the demonstrations police have reportedly stated that Nuku Sulaiman and the 21 activists will be charged with insulting the president and will face a maximum penalty of six years' imprisonment if found guilty. Police sources have also said that the 22 will be brought to trial before the end of the year. Political trials in Indonesia consistently fail to meet international standards of fairness and Amnesty International is concerned that, in addition to being prisoners of conscience, the students will face an unfair trial if brought before the courts.

On 17 December President Suharto responded to the protests by accusing the students of using tactics similar to those of the now banned Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI). In 1965 President Suharto came to power after crushing a coup attempt the authorities attributed to the PKI, until then a legal political party. In the immediate aftermath of the October 1965 coup an estimated 500,000 to one million civilians were arbitrarily executed by government forces or by groups acting with their support. Those killed were alleged members of the PKI or members of its affiliated organizations.

☎ (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience.* It works for *fair and prompt trials* for *all political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners.*

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters in English, Indonesian or in your own language:
- Protesting against the arrest and detention of Nuku Sulaiman on 25 November and the 21 students arrested on 14 December;
- Urging the authorities to guarantee their safety and wellbeing while in custody;
- Urging the government to ensure that, while in detention, the detainees are permitted regular visits by lawyers of their choice, doctors and relatives;
- Saying that you believe that all the students are prisoners of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful and legitimate expression of their political views and urging the government to release them immediately;
- Expressing concern that the 22 may face a trial which fails to meet international standards if brought before the courts.

APPEALS TO
1) President Suharto
President RI
Istana Negara
Jl. Veteran
Jakarta, Indonesia
Telegrams: President Suharto, Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs) +62 21 7781/7782
Salutation: Dear President Suharto

2) Gen. L. B. Moerdani
Menteri Pertahanan dan Keamanan
(Minister of Defence and Security)
Jl. Merdeka Barat 13
Jakarta, Indonesia
Telegrams: Gen. Moerdani, Menteri Pertahanan dan Keamanan, Jakarta, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Gen. Moerdani

3) Maj. Gen. (Pol) Mohammad Hindarto
Chief of Police, Greater Jakarta
Markas Besar Kepolisian Jakarta Raya
Jakarta, Indonesia
Telegrams: Markas Besar Kepolisian, Jakarta Raya, Jakarta, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Maj. Gen. Hindarto

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:
Ali Alatas
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl. Taman Pejambon 6
Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: +62 21 36 7782

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 3 February 1994.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended actions. If possible, send a telegram, telex, fax or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Actions cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly on behalf of victims of grave human rights violations. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action co-ordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.

Correction

- Page 2: Appeals to the Minister of Defence and Security should read as follows...

Gen. Edi Sudrajat (**not** Gen. L.B. Moerdani)
(Salutation: Dear Gen. Sudrajat)